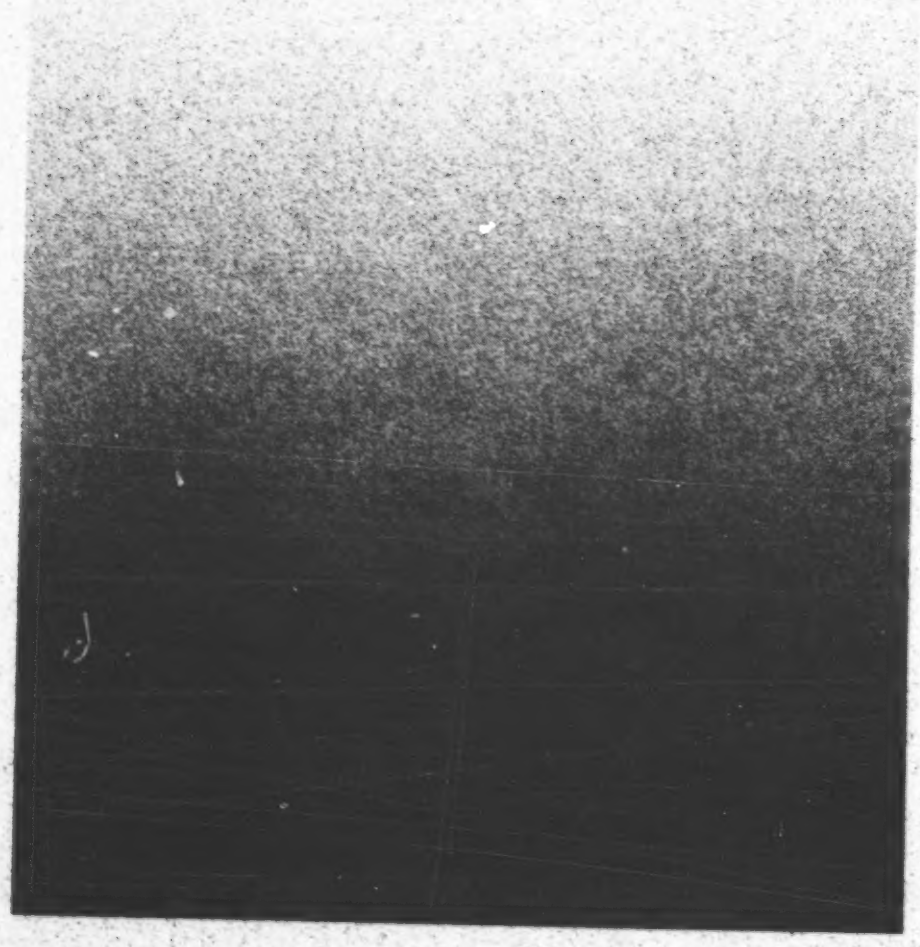
Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy

Annual Report 1990



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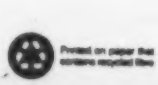


91-00959/

July 18, 1990

Honourable John Buchanan, Q.C.
Premier of Nova Scotia
Province House
Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T3

Dear Mr. Premier:

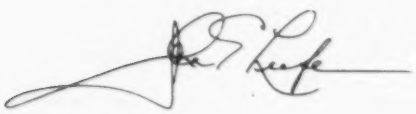
I am pleased to submit the first annual report of the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy.

With the approval of the "Nova Scotia Action Plan on Environment and Economy" in February 1990, the Government of Nova Scotia demonstrated its commitment to "...integration of environmental considerations with economic development and resource management, policy formulation and program delivery." The Nova Scotia Round Table is intimately involved with the issues identified in the Action Plan and is aggressively pursuing them.

The Conservation Strategy/Sustainable Development Committee, the Environmental Education Committee and the Public Participation Committee have proceeded with the mandates. The composition of the above committees will provide them with the ability to deal with the issues at hand.

I feel confident Nova Scotia will be in a position to respond to the National Task Force on Environment and Economy in 1992 with a wide ranging environment/economy program of the highest quality.

Respectfully submitted,



John G. Leefe
Chairperson
Minister of Environment

Introduction

In its 1987 report on the future of our planet, the ***World Commission on Environment and Development*** expressed serious concern about man's ability to secure the resources needed to sustain this and future generations. The Commission urged all countries to embrace the concept of sustainable development. Canada's response to this request was the formation of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy.

The National Task Force on Environment and Economy recommended in its report of September 24, 1987 that all provinces form multisectoral Round Tables on Environment and Economy to design methods to implement sustainable development.

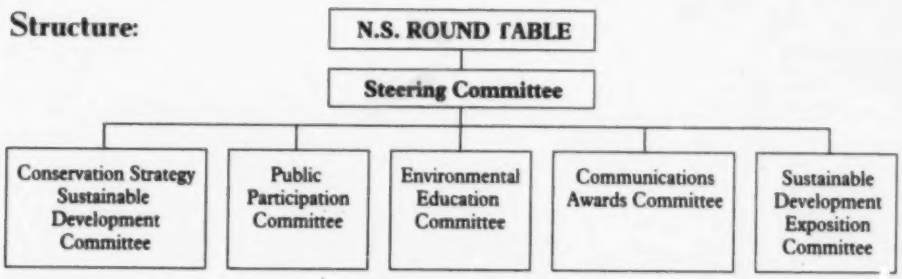
In response to the National Task Force's recommendation, Nova Scotia established a Round Table on Environment and Economy in the fall of 1988. This report details the work of the Nova Scotia Round Table to date.

Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy

Members:

Hon. John G. Leefe, Chairperson and/or Deputy Minister	*N.S. Department of the Environment*
Susan Holtz, Vice Chairperson	*Consultant*
Dr. J. Clair Callaghan	*President, ALLAC Consultants*
James G. MacDonald	*Former Executive Secretary, Environmental Control Council*
William L. Mundle	*Logan Drilling Limited*
John P. Vissers	*President, N.S. Federation of Agriculture*
Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra	*St. Mary's University*
Hon. Donald W. Cameron and/or Deputy Minister	*N.S. Department of Industry, Trade & Technology*
Murray Coolican	*National Sea Products*
Terry F. MacDonald	*V.P., Planning, N.S. Power Corp.*
Charles C. Weir, Jr.	*President, N.S. Council of Labour*
Hon Ken Streatch, Minister and/or Deputy Minister	*N.S. Small Business Development*
Gerald Saulnier	*Partner, Sea Crest Fisheries*
Dr. Jeffrey Wright	*National Research Council*
Dr. Donald E. Curren	*Former Chairperson, Human Rights Commission*
Dr. Donald G. Dodds	*Cervid Consulting*
Douglas Carter	*Mayor of Truro*
Allan C. Shaw	*Chairman, L.E. Shaw Limited*
Hon. Charles MacNeil, Minister and or Deputy Minister	*N.S. Department of Lands and Forests*
Hon. George Archibald, Minister and/or Deputy Minister	*N.S. Department of Agriculture & Marketing*

Structure:



Steering Committee

Members:

M. Coolican, Chairperson	*Conservation Strategy/Sustainable Development Committee*
S. Holtz, Co-Chairperson	*Public Participation Committee*
A. Shaw, Co-Chairperson	*Public Participation Committee*
Hon. J. Leefe	*Minister of the Environment*
A. Pinard	*Deputy Minister of the Environment*

Sub-Committee Reports

The Communications/Awards Committee and Sustainable Development Exposition Committee are not yet active. As their mandates are related, these committees may be better served by amalgamation.

Public Participation Committee Report

Mandate

This committee takes its mandate from recommendations in both the *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development* (the Brundtland Report) and Canada's response to that report, the *Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy* (both reports were published in 1987). Both of these documents stress the need to expand the opportunities for public participation in environment-economy decision-making, and to make public input more timely and useful.

Meetings and Work Focus

The committee structure of the N.S. Round Table was set up by the Round Table's Steering Committee after the first meeting of the organization. The Public Participation Committee first met in the fall of 1989, and has subsequently kept up a schedule of meetings every six weeks to two months.

The committee identified three major areas for its attention. These are:

Infrastructure for Public Participation.
The main focus for this topic has centered on resources for public participation in formal settings for public input – in particular, on intervenor funding.

Opportunities for Public Participation – Public Sector.
This work focuses on identifying the existing opportunities for the public input in the public sector, and evaluating their adequacy.

Opportunities for Public Participation – Private Sector.
Focusing on the private sector, useful examples and new opportunities for consulting with the public are examined.

Setting aside the private sector for the time being, the committee decide to try to develop recommendations on the first two topics – intervenor funding and opportunities for public participation – by 1991.

Work on these projects involves three phases: (1) information gathering studies; (2) public input; and (3) deliberations on recommendations to the Round Table and, if accepted, to the Government of Nova Scotia.

Studies

The committee expects, by the fall of 1990, to have a study prepared for other purposes on intervenor funding in Canadian jurisdictions made available to it for deliberation. In addition, means are being explored to study, in a comprehensive review, all the existing opportunities for public input into public decision-making in the province.

Public Input

Public input, in the form of short, point-form briefs on these topics, is being sought from any interested organization or member of the public. The intention is to provide wider input to the committee for its deliberations.

Deliberations/Recommendations

The committee hopes to use the above information as a basis for developing recommendations on these topics for the attention of the Round Table as a whole. If these recommendations are accepted, the Round Table will direct them to the N.S. Government in 1991.

Other work

In the spring of 1990, the Co-Chairs of the committee were asked to meet with the Environmental Control Council, in two separate sessions, to deliberate on new process-oriented amendments or changes in practice to the Environmental Assessment Act. As well, there were exchanges with a committee of the Control Council on the topic of intervenor funding.

Members:

Susan Holtz, Co-Chairperson	*Member of the Round Table*
Allan Shaw, Co-Chairperson	*Member of the Round Table*
Gillian Allen	*MacInnes, Wilson, Flinn, Wickwire*
Leslie Griffiths	*Griffiths, Muecke & Associates*
David VanderZwaag	*Dalhousie Law School*
Mil Nickerson	*Tusket River Environmental Protection Agency*
David Hopper	*N.S. Department of Mines and Energy*
Margaret Murphy	*N.S. Department of the Environment*
Gary Porter, Secretariat	*N.S. Department of the Environment*

Thanks are extended to Peter Newbould of the Department of Municipal Affairs, who served as Secretariat until May 1990.

Submitted by Susan Holtz, Co-Chairperson

Environmental Education Sub-Committee Report

The Round Table Sub-Committee on Environmental Education (EEC) has been formed. The membership of this committee comprises:

Dr. Jeffrey Wright, Chairperson	*Member of the Round Table*
Dr. Clair Callaghan	*Member of the Round Table*
Dr. Warwick Kimmins	*Dean of Science, Dalhousie University*
John Stone	*Department of Education, N.S.*
George Taylor	*Recreation Department, Halifax*
Dr. Nancy Van Wagoner	*Geology Department, Acadia University*

In addition, the committee also benefits from the participation of two members form the N.S. Department of the Environment. They are:

Lee Lewis, Secretariat
Gerald Porter, Ex officio

To date, the committee has met twice. On both occasions the lively discussions have been kept broad and free-ranging in an attempt to determine the mandate and goals of this Round Table sub-committee.

The members attending the first meeting of the committee were all agreed as to the importance and long-term significance of environmental education. Much of the work and effort in conservation and sustainable development is reactive, whereas the real strength of environmental education is that it is proactive.

Already, a number of ideas and philosophies have begun to emerge from these two meetings. The unique geographical and geological features of Nova Scotia are recognized. Some descriptive material describing efforts in other provinces as well as our own have been obtained recently and these will be circulated among sub-committee members. It is possible that first-class ideas or projects demonstrated to work in other regions may be recommended by this committee. However, as much as possible, the committee does not want to become involved in "me too" strategies regarding environmental education, and a number of interesting concepts to stimulate and increase interest in environmental education have been discussed.

One idea discussed at length was that environmental education should consist of integrated programs that can provide students and teachers with the basic concepts that will allow them to critically evaluate present and future environmental issues. We tend to inform students about current environmental issues and problems and engage them in programs specifically to address these problems.

Consequently, the environment and environmental education tend to be viewed as "clean-up campaigns." In other words, much of the emphasis is on awareness rather than understanding. Although there is a great deal of merit to this approach, in the long run we must educate our population so that in future, citizens are able to evaluate the

potential environmental problems before they occur. Clearly this is a difficult task. Our society must be educated so that it has a basic understanding as to how and why certain practises are harmful to the environment. Already we know things by default, but that is an unacceptable way of learning since the planet will be environmentally destroyed by the time we learn it all.

A number of issues regarding the operation and mandate of the committee have arisen from these discussions. It has been suggested that there should be closer communication with the Department of Education, if not at the Ministerial level, then very close to it. Much of the thinking and ideas of this Round Table appears to be a potential conflict or overlap of effort between this committee and a similar committee proposed by Voluntary Planning. This must be resolved. The question of a budget for the sub-committee has arisen. The committee has not approached the Department of the Environment concerning these and other matters but intends to do so in the near future.

A third meeting is scheduled for June or July.

Submitted by Jeffrey L.C. Wright, Chairperson

Conservation Strategy/Sustainable Development Committee Report

Members:

Murray Coolican, Chairperson	*National Sea Products*
Dr. D. Curren	*Former Chairman of Human Rights Commission*
A. Muecke	*Griffiths, Muecke & Associates*
A. Manzer	*Chairperson, Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board*
C. Brisco	*N.S. Department of the Environment*
J. Vissers	*President, N.S. Federation of Agriculture*
W. Mundle	*Logan Drilling Limited*
J. Drescher	*Eastern Forestry Resources*
Dr. G. Beanlands	*Dalhousie University*

A key element of the Nova Scotia response to the National Task Force on Environment and Economy is the preparation of a conservation strategy for sustainable development. The Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development Committee of the Round Table has met several times over the spring to begin work.

During these meetings the Committee has reached a number of conclusions about the strategy and the process for its development. The Committee is determined to produce a strategy that is uniquely Nova Scotian. The best way to achieve this goal is to involve as many of the public as possible at the earliest stage of the process.

As a first step the Committee has prepared a communications package to seek public views on the critical issues which the strategy must address – "an issue scoping package." This package for circulation to the general public is being written in a style which is accessible to the general public and will include:

- an introduction describing the purpose of the strategy, the concept of sustainable development and stimulating ideas about what might go in the strategy
- several one-page issue sheets outlining a number of critical issues for a strategy, and raising questions about the issues will have to be answered by a strategy
- a questionnaire that can be filled cut in only a few minutes, which will allow the reader to participate easily in the process.

The Committee is also preparing a How To kit to encourage the formation of local community Round Tables to develop community-based strategies. This kit will also assist existing local organizations that may wish to develop a group response to our request for input.

To encourage greater participation the Committee is investigating ways to involve the private sector in a media campaign to publicize our efforts.

On the basis of this public input, the Committee will develop a Mission Statement to form the basis of a Draft Strategy to be developed in cooperation with the Government's Land Use Planning Committee. This draft strategy will then be circulated for public comment and review through Voluntary Planning and public hearings in different parts of the Province.

The Committee hopes to present the strategy for Cabinet approval by the fall of 1991.

During the last few months the Committee has heard a presentation from the Task Force for Clean Water and reached an agreement to coordinate our work with their task force. To better enable coordination, the Chairperson of the Task Force is now a member of our Committee.

The Committee has also been briefed on the progress of the Economic Development Strategy. Based upon this briefing, members of the Committee are concerned that the Economic Development Strategy may not fully address the challenges and opportunities which sustainable development present for economic development for the Province. The Committee will review the draft strategy when it is completed.

Submitted by Murray Coolican, Chairperson

Meetings to Date

The Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy is committed to involving the public in Round Table activities. Most Round Table meetings are open to the public and will be held throughout the province.

Representatives of private industry have been encouraged to make presentations to the Round Table as to how their firms embrace the concept of sustainable development. To date, three presentations have been made.

Inaugural Meeting February 21, 1989.

The following terms of reference were approved.

Terms of Reference

The Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy shall advise and recommend to the Premier of Nova Scotia on matters of environment/economy integration and the promotion of sustainable development to ensure that the people of Nova Scotia enjoy a healthy environment and reasonable economic opportunities, both now and in the future.

In fulfilling this mandate, the Round Table shall:

i) monitor implementation of Nova Scotia's Action Plan in response to the recommendations of the National Task Force Report on Environment and Economy, and to review the Action Plan periodically to ensure that the principles of environment/economy integration continue to be applied in the future;

ii) promote the development of a provincial conservation strategy based on a process of consultation among government, industry, interest groups and the general public;

iii) promote public awareness and understanding of the linkages between the environment and the economy through the development of a communications strategy, one element of which will include environmental excellence awards and promotion of demonstration projects; and

iv) liaise with other provincial Round Tables and the National Round Table.

The Round Table shall report to the Premier of Nova Scotia at least annually on the long-term outlook for the Nova Scotia environment and the success or failure of government and private sector efforts to promote sustainable development.

Members agreed to hold quarterly meetings with additional meetings called as appropriate.

October 24, 1989 Meeting

Members agreed to a set of procedural guidelines. The sub-committee structure displayed previously was determined. It was decided that sub-committees will be chaired by Round Table members.

The Round Table decided the Steering Committee will (a) act as a clearing house for all proposals and other correspondence directed to the Round Table, (b) review reports prepared by sub-committees prior to their being submitted to the Round Table, (c) finalize agendas for Round Table meetings, and (d) oversee and approve the presentation of all documents published by and on behalf of the Round Table.

January 10, 1990 Meeting

Topic: Preservation of Unique Ecological Areas
Guest Speakers:

Monte Hummel	World Wildlife Fund
Candace Stevenson	Director, Nova Scotia Museum
Bob Ogilvie	Curator of Special Places
Jim Drescher	President of Eastern Forestry Resources

M. Hummel stressed the need to preserve the wildlife diversity within Nova Scotia by setting aside approximately 12% of our water and lands where no industrial uses are permitted. He stressed the importance of representative protected areas to provide baseline data.

C. Stevenson and B. Ogilvie discussed the Special Places Act and the establishment of ecological reserves in the province. To date, two areas have been set aside as ecological reserves and two more are scheduled to be designated in 1990.

J. Drescher described the efforts Eastern Forestry has taken to work in a sustainable manner. He suggested a number of actions that could be taken to encourage the establishment of ecological reserves on private lands. He also identified government actions that would encourage environmentally friendly forest practices.

March 28, 1990 Meeting

Half-day meeting that outlined a number of related activities and described the reorganization of the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment.

Future Meetings

June 19, 1990:

A conservation strategy for sustainable development process will be reviewed by the Round Table. Amalgamation of the Sustainable Development Exposition Committee and the Communications/Awards Committee will be considered.
The Federal Government's *Green Plan* will be discussed.

September 18–19, 1990:

Tentative Speakers: N.S. Department of Lands and Forests on sustainable development activities within that Department; Zoe Lucas on the impact of non-biodegradable marine pollution.

November 14, 1990:

Agenda not yet determined.